

ADDITIONS TO THE FISH FAUNA OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Four marine species (*Pristis* sp., *Ophisurus serpens*, *Hyporhamphus regularis regularis*, *Scorpius lineolatus*) are recorded from South Australia for the first time. A freshwater species (*Amniataba percoides*) is recorded from the State for the first time on the basis of a known collection.

Three of the marine species are essentially temperate water forms whose presence in South Australian waters is probably permanent. The occurrence of the other warm water species (*Pristis* sp.) is unexpected and it evidently constitutes a vagrant (see earlier reports¹).

Amniataba percoides has been recorded widely in inland waters of northern Australia. It was listed for South Australia in the 1920's^{2,3}, but that record was neither confirmed by any known collection nor sustained by subsequent authors.

All specimens are deposited in the South Australian Museum (SAM).



Fig. 1. Snout of *Pristis* sp. (*P. zijsron* ?). SAM F2064. TL (total length) 399 mm.

Family Pristidae. *Pristis* sp. (probably *P. zijsron* Bleeker, 1851).

The rostral process (Fig. 1) of a specimen caught 16 km offshore from Glenelg, (approx. 34° 59' S, 138° 20' E), in 1936, by E. G. Kelly, is registered in the South Australian Museum. The intact specimen would have been about 1 300 mm total length.

The rostral process has 29 pairs of teeth. This is consistent with that of *P. zijsron*, one of the three pristid species recorded in Australian waters⁴.

Pristids are found mainly in the world's tropical and sub-tropical waters⁵. In Australian *P. zijsron* has been recorded in coastal, estuarine and fresh inland waters of Queensland, New South Wales and western and northern Western Australia^{6,7}; its range reportedly extends to the East Indies, India and Sri Lanka⁷.

The present record is the first for the family Pristidae from Australia's southern waters.



Fig. 2. *Ophisurus serpens*. SAM F4566. TL 885 mm.

Family Ophichthidae. *Ophisurus serpens* (Linnaeus, 1758).

A specimen (Fig. 2) was collected from a rock pool at Coobowie (approx. 35° 03' S, 137° 44' E), on 7.i.1970, by M. J. Stanton.

O. serpens has been recorded previously in Australia from off N.S.W., Victoria, Tasmania and W.A.⁸. It is recorded elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific and eastern Atlantic Oceans, and in the Mediterranean⁹.

Family Hemiramphidae. *Hyporhamphus regularis regularis* (Günther, 1866)

Fifteen specimens (SAM F4803) were netted in Angus Inlet, off the Port River (approx. 34° 48' S, 138° 32' E), on 30.viii.1984, by S. Aust. Dept of Fisheries officers. Two additional specimens (Fig. 3) were hooked at the same locality on 23.ix.1984 by T. E. Lloyd.

H. regularis occurs only around the southern half of the Australian continent, where it has been recorded from southern Qld, N.S.W., Vic. and south-western W.A.¹⁰. Two distinct sub-species are recognised, one on the continent's south-east coast (*H. regularis ardelio*), the other on its south-west coast (*H. regularis regularis*)¹⁰.

M. E. Goman advised me (pers. comm., 1984) that the S. Aust. specimens are *H. regularis regularis*. This record therefore represents the most easterly documented occurrence of the western sub-species.



Fig. 3. *Hyporhamphus regularis regularis*. SAM F4831. TL 255 mm (smallest specimen)

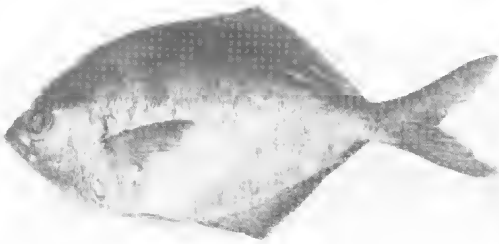


Fig. 4. *Scorpis lineolatus*. SAM F4761. TL 316 mm.

Family Scorpidae. *Scorpis lineolatus* Kner, 1865.

Two specimens were captured by speargun between Victor Harbor and Seal Island (Seal Rock), (approx. 35° 34'S, 138° 38'E), on 31.xii.1983, by competitors in a national spearfishing competition. One specimen is illustrated (Fig. 4); the other is SAM F4762.

S. lineolatus has been recorded only in Australia, from Qld, N.S.W., Vic., Tas. and at Lord Howe Island.⁸

The present S. Aust. record represents the species' most westerly documented occurrence.

Family Teraponidae *Amniataba percooides* (Günther, 1864).

Two specimens (Fig. 5) were netted at the Neales River crossing on the main road south-east of Oodnadatta



Fig. 5. *Amniataba percooides*. SAM F4792. TL 54 mm (largest specimen).

(approx. 27° 54'S, 135° 46'E), on 3.v.1984, by a South Australian Museum party.

A. percooides is endemic to Australia where it is recorded widely dispersed in inland waters of Qld, Northern Territory and W.A.^{11,12}. An early record from S. Aust.^{2,3} was not substantiated by any hitherto known collection.

The present record is the species' most southerly documented occurrence^{12,13}.

Those persons mentioned are thanked for collecting and donating the specimens to the South Australian Museum. Thanks are also extended to Dr G. K. Jones (S. Aust. Dept. of Fisheries) for forwarding portion of the *H. regularis regularis* and *S. lineolatus* collections, and Dr M. F. Gomom (Museum of Victoria) for identifying *H. regularis regularis*.

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⁵Lindberg, G. U. (1974). Fishes of the World. (J. Wiley & Sons: New York).

⁶Whitley, G. P. (1948). Fisheries Bulletin No. 2, 1-35. (Western Australian Fisheries Department: Perth).

⁷Marshall, T. C. (1964). Fishes of the Great Barrier Reef and coastal waters of Queensland. (Angus & Robertson: Sydney).

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¹¹Lake, J. S. (1978). Australian Freshwater Fishes. (Nelson: Melbourne).

¹²Merrick, J. R. & Schmida, G. E. (1984). Australian Freshwater Fishes. (J. R. Merrick: North Ryde, N.S.W.).

¹³Allen, G. R. (1982). Inland Fishes of Western Australia. (Western Australian Museum: Perth).